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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy, Vienna

# 1598

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 1, 1952

DATE

REF :

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SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Expelled Volksdeutsche Join Slovaks in Attack on Policy of Radio Free Europe.

During the last few months we have noticed an increase in the amount of propaganda distributed by the Slovak refugees against the Czechs. Much of the dissension seems to be directed against the personnel and program content of Radio Free Europe, and the stimulus behind it seems to be The Slovak Liberation Committee (SOV), which we discussed in our Despatches, No. 1549 of March 26 and No. 1508 of March 21, 1952.

In the despatches we reported that the SOV, in an effort to augment its ranks, was attempting to lure to its side various elements of the Volksdeutsche and Sudeten Germans in Austria. We included a letter from the SOV's leader, Dr. F. Durcansky, to Dr. Adenauer, in which he stated that the organization, in the event of the fall of the present Czechoslovakian government, would demand that the expelled Germans be allowed to return to Slovakia with full rights.

The lead article in the Austrian Volksdeutsche newspaper Wegwarte (29 March 1952) shows that the SOV has met with not a little success in winning the support of this element. The paper says that all expelled Germans and Slovaks realize that the greatest danger to the security of a future federated Europe is "Exile Czechoslovakism"; they protest the right of this "Czechoslovakism" to act in the name of the Bohemians, Moravians, and Slovaks; they accuse numerous Western politicians of not realizing that "Czechoslovakia, whether communist at the present time, or exile Czechoslovak, still remains anti-European and anti-democratic."

The article criticizes the West for supporting this "Exile Czechoslovakism" in its operation of Radio Free Europe and of ignoring the Slovak Liberation Committee, which, according to the paper, is directed by "the most popular and most able politician abroad, Dr. Durcansky". (No mention is made, of course, of his fascist background.)

SRoberts:amr

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The article continues by urging the Sudeten Germans to join the SOV in its fight for an independent Slovakia and the defeat of the "Exile Czechoslovaks". A copy of the article is enclosed.

Action requested. Department please pass copies to peripheral posts, Budapest, and Bucharest.

*Walter Dowling*  
Walter Dowling  
Acting High Commissioner

Enclosures: (1) Translation of Newspaper article "Expatriated Czechoslovaks—Europe's Number One Enemy".

Copy to: Amembassy, Prague.

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